

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the following paragraphs as indicated:

The first paragraph on page 3:

The present invention is directed to a filtering device for trapping and removing emboli from a body vessel (e.g. an artery). In one embodiment of the invention, a sheath attached to a guide wire maintains a filtering assembly in a collapsed position until the filtering assembly is ready to be deployed in the patient's vasculature. The filtering assembly is attached to a tubular shaft member which is slidable over the guide wire to move the filtering assembly out of the sheath when the filtering assembly is to be deployed and to retract the sheath back over the filtering assembly when the assembly is to be collapsed and removed from the vessel. The filtering assembly may be formed from a plurality of angularly spaced splines and a filter member made from mesh or other suitable filtering material. The filter member is disposed on the splines and has properties of passing fluid in the vessel while blocking the passage of emboli in the fluid. The splines may be made from a shape-memory material which allows the ~~spines~~ splines to self expand once the sheath is removed. The ~~spines~~ splines expand against the wall of the vessel when released from the collapsed or compressed position to deploy the filter member in the vessel in order to provide the necessary emboli filtration within the vessel.